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**United Nations Forum on Forests**
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**Draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests submitted by the Chair of the Forum, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon)**

## Future international arrangement on forests we want

1. We, the ministers responsible for forests, gathered at the high-level segment of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, stress that forests provide multiple benefits for the lives and well-being of people across the planet. The sustainable management of all types of forests is vital to poverty eradication, economic growth and decent employment, food security and nutrition, gender equality, governance, health, water quality and supply, energy production, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, watershed protection and disaster risk reduction.

2. We welcome efforts by countries and stakeholders to advance the sustainable management of all types of forests, but are deeply concerned about the continued loss and degradation of forests in many regions, the fragmentation in global forest governance and the impact of accelerating global demand for forest products and services in the years ahead.

3. We recognize that the United Nations Forum on Forests, with its universal membership and comprehensive mandate, plays a vital role in addressing challenges and issues relating to forests in a holistic and integrated manner and in promoting policy coordination and cooperation to achieve the sustainable management of all types of forests.

4. We affirm that the Forum should have a key role in achieving the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets as well as in integrating forests into the broader post-2015 development agenda to be adopted by the General Assembly.

5. We underscore the need to accelerate efforts at all levels to achieve the objectives of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015. We therefore decide to strengthen the current arrangement and establish a strong, more effective and solid arrangement for the period 2015-2030 by making the commitments set out below.

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6. We commit ourselves:[1]

(a) To strengthening the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and to action to achieve its global objectives on forests;

(b) To integrating the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets into the United Nations Forest Agreement/Instrument/Framework, taking into account forest-related developments since 2007;

(c) To working through the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to integrate the implementation of the United Nations Forest Agreement/Instrument/Framework and the supportive role of the Collaborative Partnership into their strategies and programmes;

(d) To promoting the implementation and financing at all levels of sustainable management of all types of forests, including by:

(i) Mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for the sustainable management of all types of forests and enhancing the access of countries to forest-related funds;

(ii) Strengthening technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building, including the transfer of environmentally sound technology, as well as forest-related governance, law enforcement and enabling environments, and secure tenure and access to forest resources;

(iii) Strengthening the Forum, its secretariat and the Collaborative Partnership with associated resources to ensure that they perform their functions;

(e) To developing, by 2017, a strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 to guide the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components;

(f) To ensuring the allocation of adequate resources for the implementation of the present declaration and resolution 11/[ ] on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 in various forums;

(g) To accelerating coordination and collaboration on all issues relating to forests and promoting complementarity and coherence between the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 and other forest-related processes;

(h) To fully engaging stakeholders, in particular regional and subregional organizations, the forest products industry and local and indigenous communities, in the work of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015;

(i) To strengthening monitoring, assessment and reporting by countries and the role of the Forum, in particular with regard to the implementation of the United Nations Forest Agreement/Instrument/Framework and the achievement of the forest-related sustainable development goals and targets.

[1] These commitments provide an overall framework of political commitment for the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015. Decisions on specific action and measures to turn the commitments into reality are being taken as part of Forum resolution 11/[ ] on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015.

7. We call upon:

(a) The participants in the third International Conference on Financing for Development to consider the role of forests in advancing sustainable development as a priority for financing for development;

(b) The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its twenty-first session, to use the United Nations Forest Agreement/Instrument/Framework as the integrated reference framework for its forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and action in the future;

(c) The Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to strengthen their participation and involvement in the work of the Forum on the sustainable management of all types of forests;

(d) The existing and emerging forest-related financing initiatives, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, to support the implementation of the United Nations Forest Agreement;

(e) The above-mentioned bodies and participants in the above-mentioned conferences and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda to consider the present declaration to be the contribution of the Forum to the outcomes of those events, and in this regard we request the Secretary-General to officially submit the present declaration to those conferences and the summit.

8. We emphasize that our country representatives in the relevant negotiation processes should integrate the key elements of the present declaration and Forum resolution 11/[ ] into the outcome documents of the above-mentioned conferences and summit.

9. We agree to meet again in 2020, together with our partners, including the heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the chief executive officers of private sector, philanthropic and community organizations.